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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 GEORGETOWN 000150

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ECA/A/E/USS - BRIAN N. GIBSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OEXC](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [GY](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY GEORGETOWN NOMINATION FOR FY-06 ECA/A/E/USS  
STUDY OF  
THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE ON "U.S. FOREIGN POLICY"

REFERENCE: STATE 202066, STATE 208708

1. Embassy Georgetown nominates Ms. Geetangeli Geer to the U.S. Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy. Ms. Geer is the Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and a lecturer at the University of Guyana. Ms. Geer lectures on a international relations, conflict resolution. Her classes include components on trafficking of arms and drugs as well as the need for the Caribbean to form stronger linkages with the U.S.

2. PERSONAL INFORMATION

A. NOMINEE'S FULL NAME: GEER, GEETANGELI

B. DATE OF BIRTH [MONTH/DAY/YEAR]: FEB/11/1975

C. CITY OF BIRTH: GEORGETOWN

D. COUNTRY OF BIRTH: GUYANA

E. COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: GUYANA

F. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: GUYANA

G. HOME ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL: 8 Second Cross Street, Bel Air Village, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, South America; Telephone: +592-626-5794; E-mail: Angelill2@hotmail.com

H. GENDER: FEMALE

I. MEDICAL, PHYSICAL, DIETARY OR OTHER PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS [PLEASE NOTE: NO PHYSICAL EXAMINATION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM]: NONE

J. CURRENT POSITION AND TITLE: Assistant Dean and Lecturer, Faculty of Social Science

K. CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION AND COMPLETE ADDRESS: University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus

L. WORK EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND TITLES:

Assistant Dean and Lecturer, Faculty of Social Science, University of Guyana, August 2005 - present

Lecturer I, University of Guyana, September 2002 - August 2005

M. EDUCATION, ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING INCLUDING DEGREES EARNED AND FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, January 2004  
Multi-Track Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation, one-month course

UNIVERSITY OF PUNE, INDIA, graduated June 2002  
Awarded a government of India Scholarship in 2000  
Masters in Communication Studies - (M. Cm.S). First class

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA, Georgetown, Guyana, graduated June 2000

Post Graduate Diploma - International Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA, Georgetown, Guyana, June 1999  
Bachelor of Social Science (B.Soc.Sc), Distinction  
Major in Communication.

N. ACTIVE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS: UNKNOWN

O. SHORT REPEAT SHORT LIST OF RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS [NO MORE THAN FIVE-TEN CITATIONS]: NONE

P. PREVIOUS TRAVEL AND STUDY OR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING DATES AND AN INDICATION AS TO WHETHER SUCH TRAVEL WAS SUPPORTED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDS:

July 1998 - Visited media houses as part of an undergraduate

project. No funding from the USG.

January 2004 - University of Maryland, Multi-Track Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation. No funding from the USG.

10. EVIDENCE OF FLUENCY IN WRITTEN AND ORAL ENGLISH [E.G., TEST SCORE, PERSONAL INTERVIEW, ETC.]: Guyana is an English speaking country.

13. STATEMENT BY COMMISSION/POST JUSTIFYING PARTICIPATION OF THE CANDIDATE IN SUBJECT INSTITUTE [PER PARA 7-B ABOVE]:

Embassy Georgetown supports Ms. Geer's nomination to the U.S. Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy. After only three years in the University system, Ms. Geer has been made Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. She has input into the curricula developed in her school. In addition, Ms. Geer is a lecturer on foreign policy and regularly updates her course material. Ms. Geer's participation would advance U.S. interests by creating a more informed student population.

(1) CURRENT OR PROJECTED EXTENT OF THE U.S. STUDIES CONTENT OF THE COURSE[S] AND MATERIALS BEING TAUGHT OR DEVELOPED BY THE CANDIDATE: Ms. Geer is the assistant dean of the faculty of Social Sciences in Guyana's main tertiary education institute. In addition to her duties as assistant dean, Ms. Geer is also a lecturer. Ms. Geer is responsible for course content the courses that she teaches including the following:

Issues in International Relations (POL 326). A brief introduction to the post cold war discourse followed by a critical understanding of some of the theories of international relations such as realism and liberalism. Possible shifts in strategic interests in the post September 11 world were studied. International organizations, which are considered to be major players in the field of international relations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, also receive attention.

Issues in Caribbean Government and Politics - (POL 320). This course starts by examining the implications of the Munroe Doctrine for the region then moves onto the need for Caribbean governments to establish even stronger links with the United States to curb drug trafficking and arms smuggling within and outside the region. The need for good governance in the Caribbean and the role of the Diaspora also receive due attention. Integration efforts such as the Caricom Single Market and Economy and its implications for the movement of labor and skills within the region receive critical examination. Caricom's relationship with Haiti was also studied in some detail.

Introduction to Latin American Politics - (IRL 414). This course introduces students to some of the major issues in Latin American government and politics. As such, the role of the military and the role of the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America are examined. Integration efforts in Latin America such as MERCOSUR and the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation are discussed. Brazil and Venezuela are studied in some detail since they are thought to be two of the stronger "players" in Latin America.

Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution - (POL 327). This course emphasizes the importance of conflict management in several areas including groups, organizations and the international arena. Emphasis is placed on the origins of conflict, the different approaches to conflict resolution and the importance of communication in conflict management with special emphasis on intercultural communication.

Issues in Latin American Politics - (IRL 422). This course focuses on several areas including studying political change in Venezuela and Ecuador. Emphasis is placed on some integration efforts in the region including the Organization of American States and the South America Community of Nations. Attention is also given to security issues within region and the impact of narco trafficking. Latin America's relations with the Caribbean as well as with the European Union were also studied.

Introduction to International Relations - (POL 315). The objective is to provide Public Management students with a brief overview of International Relations. The course introduces students to the emergence of the interstate system in Europe followed by the significance of the Treaty of Westphalia. Theories of war, diplomacy, sources and types of international conflict are also discussed. Students are encouraged to think critically

about the ethical dimensions of foreign policy formulation and execution.

(2) LIKELY RELEVANCE OF THE PROGRAM TO THE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CANDIDATE;

This institute is extremely relevant to Ms. Geer's professional responsibilities. Ms. Geer lectures on foreign policy. As the assistant dean, she is responsible for making sure that what curricula is up-to-date.

(3) THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE CANDIDATE'S PARTICIPATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY OF THE U.S. AT HIS/HER HOME INSTITUTION [IN TERMS OF ENHANCED TEACHING AND CURRICUA, ETC.]:

Ms. Geer has input into the curricula of Guyana's major university. Participation in this program will provide her with a better understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is implemented. Using this information, she will be able to provide a more accurate picture of U.S. foreign policy to her students.

(4) IF APPLICABLE, THE RELEVANCE OF THE CANDIDATE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTITUTE TO POST'S/COMMISSION'S LONG-TERM U.S. STUDIES GOALS AND/OR THE MPP:

Ms. Geer's participation would help fulfill Post's goal of stable conditions in fragile/failing states by providing the leaders of tomorrow with accurate information about U.S. foreign policy.

1S. SHORT PERSONAL STATEMENT [NO MORE THAN 3 DOUBLE-SPACED PAGES] BY CANDIDATE INDICATING WHY HE OR SHE IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING AND WHAT HE/SHE EXPECTS TO GET OUT OF THE PROGRAM:

The foreign policy of a state is the general set of principles that its decision makers adopt towards the outside world. US foreign policy is of interest the world over but since I live in the Caribbean it holds special interest to me because the view has been advanced those smaller, less powerful countries might not always be in a position to articulate their needs as effectively as the larger, more developed, powerful countries such as the United States.

Many people hold the view that in the post 9/11 world US strategic interests have shifted away from the Latin American/Caribbean region to the Middle East. This view is partially correct when one examines the current war in Iraq with the objective of restoring democracy to that country.

However, even though US strategic interests have shifted, it should be emphasized that within the Latin American/Caribbean region Venezuela, Cuba and to a lesser extent Haiti are the exceptions. Additionally, the US has maintained a high level of interest in the region when it comes to a few select areas:

- (1) Drug trafficking (with special interest in Jamaica, Guyana, Columbia, [the use of Plan Colombia] Peru, Bolivia, [especially now with the election of Evo Morales who is slated to commence his presidential term on January 22, 2005], Trinidad and Tobago). Additionally the signing of the Shiprider Agreement by the US with Guyana and Jamaica is also a clear indication of the level of interest the US has maintained in this area.
- (2) Trafficking in Persons with specific attention to Guyana, Brazil and Suriname.
- (3) The potential for a terrorist breeding ground in some parts of the region such as Trinidad and Tobago
- (4) Funding of HIV/AIDS programs with specific reference to Guyana. According to Adolfo A. Franco, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, United States Agency for International Development, Haiti and Guyana are two of the 15 focus countries worldwide included in the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Clearly, when it comes to the region, US foreign policy is diverse. Thus, it would be important to understand what factors drive US foreign policy in these specific areas and why are they important to the execution of US foreign policy in the region as a whole.

The US has also maintained its interest in the Latin American region in the hope of crafting various free trade agreements specifically within the CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement) Framework.

In a statement issued by USTR Spokesman Stephen Norton on December 30, 2005 the countries which are signatories to CAFTA-DR were identified as the United States, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mr. S. Norton continued that all of the CAFTA-DR signatories have ratified the Agreement except

Costa Rica. El Salvador was the first to ratify in December 2004. Nicaragua was the most recent, in September 2005. He stated that CAFTA-DR is the second largest U.S. export market in Latin America, behind only Mexico, buying more than \$16 billion in U.S. exports. Successful CAFTA-DR implementation is critical to the broader U.S. policy goals for the Americas of strengthening democratic governance, expanding economic opportunity, and investing in people.

On April 11, 2005 US Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns was quoted as saying, "Under CAFTA with those markets opened on a fair and an equitable basis, we could well double U.S. export sales to these countries. CAFTA-DR nations have a total population of 44 million. It is a great market for our products. He continued by saying, "... CAFTA is good for America's farmers, it is good for America's ranchers, and it's good for the entire American economy -- and we are going to fight to get it approved".

Therefore, a trade agreement with this part of the region is very important to the United States and thus is crucial to the foreign policy agenda for this part of the region.

US foreign policy is also of interest to me because there is the perception that China and the European Union will slowly overtake the US in terms of economic growth and world dominance. A country that is perceived to be the sole superpower would certainly have an interest in retaining this position and its foreign policy will certainly be crafted to reflect same. Clearly then foreign policy strategies must be pursued now with the ultimate goal of maintaining superpower status.

I am genuinely interested in participating in this program because of the scenarios I have outlined above. What factors drive US foreign policy? How much of an impact does the external environment have on shaping US foreign policy? How much of an impact does the domestic environment have on shaping US Foreign Policy?

I also plan to commence studies leading to a PhD. in international relations sometime within the next three years and therefore this will be a very useful undertaking for me.

Finally it is always useful to understand how countries perceive themselves and the way they identify and utilize available strategies to shape their foreign policies. Therefore, it might be a rewarding experience to study US foreign policy from a US perspective taught by US professors. As an academic I am open to any learning experience which can support or complement the knowledge which I have gained in this area.

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